

# backroom bytes

e-bulletin no 9

MAY 2013

*Our valued members must be feeling sadly neglected, not having heard from us yet this year. Never fear, we are still beavering away and have plenty to report.*

## PLANS FOR 2013

We held our annual planning meeting at the Old Broome Guesthouse in February. Giving up our Sunday for BP was not such a hardship in these pleasant surroundings, with plenty of delicious food and cups of tea to keep our brains and bodies nourished.

Joyce made the sad announcement that our PC was dying. It has now been replaced. Meanwhile, the old one took on a new lease on life and we are donating it to a dialysis patient who needs one to complete a job she has been working on for years.

With the help of our member Francesca, we have streamlined our bookkeeping system, not without much pain and gnashing of Alex and Joyce's teeth.

We planned to produce teachers' notes for two of our titles, and this is about to happen...we think.

Ushan, our IT specialist, is giving our website a facelift, which will give it a more contemporary look and make it easier to purchase books online. It is looking good, but don't expect to find it just yet; the sub-committee is still working on it. We are also on Facebook and Twitter — up there in the 21st Century.

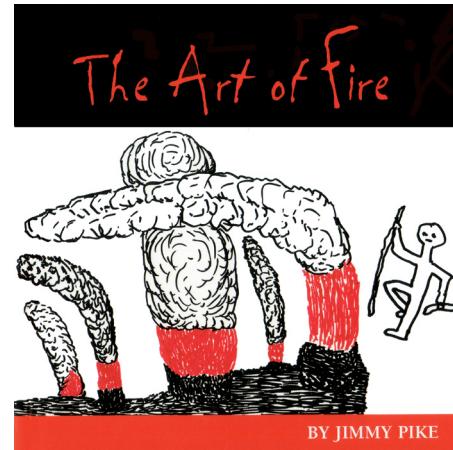
## MANUSCRIPTS

We have three possible manuscript projects before us, all of which look promising. One, nearing completion, is a treatise about termites, by Backroom Committee member Pat. With line illustrations by Chris Hill, the book will, we hope, be ready for Christmas. The other two manuscripts will remain under wraps until they are further advanced and we have signed contracts.

Members please note that Pat is being excluded from Backroom discussions and planning for her book, so there will be no whiff of conflict of interest.



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## ART OF FIRE – Animation

Last year we were approached by Rangelands NRM about making an animated version of Art of Fire for use by Martu Rangers, who were having some difficulty using the book. After looking into the ins and outs of doing it ourselves using local resources, we decided to hand over the project to Rangelands to fund and produce DVDs. Red Dirt Consultants are now working on the project. The animation will be minimal, and a Manyjilyjarra speaker has translated the text into his language and provides the voiceover. Red Dirt is including us in the planning and we have seen the first story animated. It's looking good!

## CORRUGATED LINES

Backroom is again participating in Corrugated Lines, Broome's own Writers' Festival, with Sudha back in one of the driving seats at CL. Our projects are: Better Writing Guaranteed — a workshop presented by Alex and Pat, for which bookings are essential, and Best First Line, a competition to be run by Alex, with prizes. See the Corrugated Lines Facebook page for all information about the Festival, which is promising to be even bigger and more exciting than last year's.

## MEMBERS AND ACTIVE MEMBERS

Our management committee members are: Chairperson Sudha Coutinho, Treasurer Alex Smee, Secretary Christine Elsasser, ordinary members Joyce Hudson, Val Burgess, Rebecca Youdale, Ushan Boyd, Pat Lowe. A great team with many different skills and experience to offer.

For those who don't know or have forgotten, we now have a category of self-nominated Active Members, who are not on the management committee, which is limited to eight, but are willing to take on tasks and attend meetings when they can. This is a way of having more say and hands-on action with BP. Thanks to Gillian Kennedy, Hilary Smale and Nicola Kolmar. We have also had help on our occasional stalls from Sarah Yu and Anna McDonald.

## weekend markets

Now that the tourist season has started, Backroom hopes to hold a few Saturday morning stalls at the Courthouse Markets. Interested members and active members who feel like spending a cool morning chatting to friends and passers-by and offering them our books may offer to run a stall, with support from one of our more experienced salespersons.

## UMBRELLA

Ushan is producing an online arts mag of this name, and is seeking contributions of articles, reviews, photos and whathaveyou. Go to [www.umbrellamag.com.au](http://www.umbrellamag.com.au) and send in your pieces.